
2003 Wis Eth Bd 05
IMPROPER USE OF OFFICE, LOBBYING LAW

The Ethics Board advises that a state public official may serve as the honorary chair of a charitable event sponsored by a lobbying principal for which the official will receive no compensation and will pay the cost of dinner and golf.

Question

¶1 You have asked whether laws administered by the Ethics Board restrict your serving as Honorary Chairperson of a charitable golf outing and dinner held by a lobbying principal. Your responsibility will be to say a few words at the golf course just prior to dinner. You will receive no compensation and will pay the cost of dinner and golf, if you choose to participate in either. Proceeds generated by the event are donated to a charitable organization.

Advice

¶2 Under the circumstances you have outlined, you may serve as Honorary Chairperson of the event without restriction from laws administered by this agency. Since you must pay the same cost for golf and dinner as any member of the public who comes to the event, you may certainly do that if you so choose.

WR1140